

January 27, 2020

Submitted via FOIAonline

Regional Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. EPA, Region 1 (OARM01-6)
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552 et seq., Conservation Law Foundation ("CLF") hereby requests the records described below pertaining to the fish hatchery listed on the EPA Enforcement and Compliance History Online ("ECHO") database as:

Powder Mill Fish Hatchery – Merrymeeting Lake Road, New Durham, NH 03855.

This request seeks the following documents from the time period described below:

1. Any communications and accompanying records received on or after January 1, 2018 from the State of New Hampshire, including the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department (NHF&G), the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), and the New Hampshire Attorney General's office, pertaining to the issuance, development, or contents of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit for the Powder Mill State Fish Hatchery;
2. Any communications and accompanying records conveyed on or after January 1, 2018 by the Environmental Protection Agency to the State of New Hampshire, including NHF&G, NHDES, and the New Hampshire Attorney General's office, pertaining to the issuance, development, or contents of a NPDES permit for the Powder Mill State Fish Hatchery; and
3. Any internal notes or intra-agency communications and accompanying records pertaining to any visits by EPA staff to the Powder Mill State Fish Hatchery in 2019.

CLF requests that any fees incurred in conjunction with this request be waived, as disclosure of the requested records is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii); 40 C.F.R. § 2.107(l). CLF is a 501(c)(3) organization and is seeking this information to inform CLF members and the public, including nearby residents, about the current state of environmental permitting and compliance at the Powder Mill Fish Hatchery located at Merrymeeting Lake Road, New Durham, NH 03855.

In the event that our request for a fee waiver is denied, we request that the total cost be minimized by providing the information in electronic format. Also, if fees are assessed, please provide in advance a written, itemized, good faith estimate of such fees. We are willing to make an appointment to review responsive documents in person if that would be most efficient.

As you are aware, FOIA requires you to provide a response within twenty business days. I appreciate your prompt response to this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (617) 850-1731 or acharnov@clf.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chen" with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Alex Charnov
Paralegal